

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS****RECEIVED  
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Claims 1-8 (Cancelled)

Claim 9 (Original)

A method of inflating and launching a balloon, comprising the steps of:

- deploying a launch platform to create a surface on which an uninflated balloon can be placed;
- securing a launch bag to said launch platform;
- inserting an uninflated balloon in said launch bag to secure said uninflated balloon to said launch platform; and
- controllably releasing said balloon from said launch bag.

Claim 10 (Original):

The method of inflating and launching a balloon of claim 9 wherein said launch platform comprises a case for providing an enclosed space for the storage and transport of said uninflated balloon, said step of deploying comprises:

- extending a plurality of legs, having a first end and a second end with said first end being secured to said case, for supporting said case at a predetermined height;
- and

- deploying at least one folding shelf that is attached to an interior surface of said case to create a surface on which said uninflated balloon can be placed.

Claim 11 (Original):

The method of inflating and launching a balloon of claim 10 wherein said step of deploying further comprises:

- attaching said launch bag to said launch platform at a plurality of points.

Claim 12 (Original):

The method of inflating and launching a balloon of claim 11 wherein said launch bag comprises a substantially cylindrical enclosure formed of an expandable material to accommodate said uninflated balloon and securely hold said uninflated balloon through

all stages of inflation to full inflation and said substantially cylindrical enclosure includes a zipper formed along a side of said substantially cylindrical enclosure, said step of controllably releasing said balloon comprises:

operating said zipper to open said substantially cylindrical enclosure to release said inflated balloon from said launch bag.

**Claim 13 (New):**

The method of inflating and launching a balloon of claim 9, wherein said launch bag is releasably secured to said launch platform.

**Claim 14 (New):**

The method of inflating and launching a balloon of claim 9, wherein:

the launch platform is provided with means for creating the surface on which said uninflated balloon can be placed;

the launch bag is provided with means for securing said uninflated balloon to said launch platform; and

said launch bag is provided with opening means for controllably releasing said balloon.

**Claim 15 (New)**

A method of inflating and launching a balloon, comprising the steps of:

deploying a launch platform that includes a launch bag secured to said launch platform;

inserting an uninflated balloon in said launch bag to secure said uninflated balloon to said launch platform; and

controllably releasing said balloon from said launch bag.

**Claim 16 (New):**

The method of inflating and launching a balloon of claim 15 wherein said launch bag is releasably secured to said launch platform.

**Claim 17 (New):**

The method of inflating and launching a balloon of claim 15 wherein:

the launch platform is provided with means for creating the surface on which said uninflated balloon can be placed;

the launch bag is provided with means for securing said uninflated balloon to said launch platform; and

said launch bag is provided with opening means for controllably releasing said balloon.

**Claim 18 (New):**

The method of inflating and launching a balloon of claim 15 wherein said launch platform comprises a case for providing an enclosed space, said step of deploying comprises:

extending a plurality of legs, having a first end and a second end with said first end being secured to said case, for supporting said case at a predetermined height; and

deploying at least one folding shelf that is attached to an interior surface of said case to create a surface on which said uninflated balloon can be placed.

**Claim 19 (New):**

The method of inflating and launching a balloon of claim 18 wherein said launch bag is secured to said launch platform at a plurality of points.

**Claim 20 (New):**

The method of inflating and launching a balloon of claim 19 wherein said launch bag comprises a substantially cylindrical enclosure formed of an expandable material to accommodate said uninflated balloon and securely hold said uninflated balloon through all stages of inflation to full inflation and said substantially cylindrical enclosure includes a zipper formed along a side of said substantially cylindrical enclosure, said step of controllably releasing said balloon comprises:

operating said zipper to open said substantially cylindrical enclosure to  
release said inflated balloon from said launch bag.